

Message Text

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14

ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 HUD-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6142

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DEPT PASS TO DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR MENDENHALL/FHWA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, FHWA, KU

SUBJ: MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS INTEREST IN ADDITIONAL U.S.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

1. FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA) CHIEF IN KUWAIT MAC-DONALD HAS INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS (MPW) HAS ASKED IF FHWA WOULD CONSIDER EXPANSION OF SCOPE OF ITS CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT TO ADD THREE ENGINEERS WITH BACKGROUNDS IN DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

2. MINISTRY REALIZES THAT FHWA DOES NOT HAVE IN-HOUSE EXPERTISE IN THESE JOB CATEGORIES BUT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT NECESSARY APPROVALS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM A COMPLETELY SEPARATE AGREEMENT WITH ANOTHER USG AGENCY. MINISTRY'S PROPOSAL WOULD BE SIMILAR TO ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION ENGINEERS WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST MINISTRY IN SUPERVISION CONSTRUCTION MPW AIR TERMINAL AND CARGO FACILITY.

3. UNDER PROPOSED AGREEMENT, MINISTRY WOULD INCREASE FHWA DOLLAR ADVANCE FUND BY AMOUNT NECESSARY TO FINANCE ADDITIONAL OPERATION, WITH SALARIES AND ALLOWANCE PAID AT GS-13 AND GS-14 LEVEL.

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4. MINISTRY'S INQUIRY WAS INFORMAL AND LIMITED TO CONCEPT

ACCEPTABILITY ON PART FHWA. FHWA HQ NOTIFIED AND WE UNDER-
STAND IT IS RECEPTIVE TO IDEA. CONTACT APPARENTLY HAS BEEN
MADE WITH HUD RE POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT PERSONNEL.

5. OUR INITIAL REACTION IS THAT ADDITIONAL U.S. ADVISORS IN
IMPORTANT KUWAITI MINISTRY WOULD BE IN U.S. INTEREST. PRAGMATIC
ADMINISTRATIVE APPROACH PROPOSED BY MACDONALD POSES NO PROBLEMS
FOR EMBASSY. MINISTRY HAS MADE NO FORMAL REQUEST BUT MAY DO
SO. WE WISHED TO ALERT DEPT RE THIS DEVELOPMENT AND TO SOLICIT
ITS REACTION, IF ANY, TO POTENTIAL OFFICIAL PROPOSAL BY MPW.
MAESTRONE

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